

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (original): A filter, in particular for the separation of leucocytes from further blood components, comprising an outer sheath, comprising at least one intermediate layer which is a component of a frame or forms a frame, comprising an inlet chamber, which is in communication with an inlet for the medium to be filtered, and an outlet chamber, which is in communication with an outlet for the filtrate, and comprising a filter material which separates the inlet chamber from the outlet chamber, characterized in that the filter material is encompassed between the outer sheath and the intermediate layer.

Claim 2 (original): A filter in accordance with claim 1, wherein the outer sheath is made of flexible material.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A filter in accordance with claim 1 ~~either of claims 1 or 2~~, wherein the outer sheath consists of two parts, in particular foils, which are welded to one another, and wherein the filter material is encompassed between one of these parts and the intermediate layer.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A filter in accordance with claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein the filter material is encompassed between the outer sheath on the inlet side and the intermediate layer.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A filter in accordance with claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein the filter material is welded to the outer sheath and to the intermediate layer.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A filter in accordance with claim 1

~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein the intermediate layer consists of flexible material.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A filter in accordance with claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein a first inwardly disposed welding seam is provided which connects the filter material to the intermediate layer and to the outer sheath, and wherein a second outwardly disposed welding seam is provided which connects the intermediate layer to the outer sheath.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A filter in accordance with claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein the intermediate layer has one or more apertures which connect the marginal region of the filter material encompassed in the frame to the inlet chamber or outlet chamber.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A filter in accordance with claim 7 ~~either of claims 7 or 8~~, wherein the apertures are arranged in a region between the first and second welding seams.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A filter in accordance with claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein a plurality of intermediate layers are provided.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A filter in accordance with claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein the filter material is elliptic in its plan view.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A filter in accordance with claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein the inlet consists of a stub which is welded to the outer sheath and which has two limbs which are arranged at right angles to one another and of which the limb welded to the outer sheath extends

substantially perpendicular from the outer sheath.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A filter in accordance with claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein the outlet consists of a cylindrical stub which is welded to the outer sheath and/or to the intermediate layer and whose longitudinal axis extends in a plane which extends parallel to the plane formed by the filter material and is offset with respect to it.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A filter in accordance with claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein the filter material is pressed or needled.